



Nantesense

Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association Newsletter - April 2025

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Letter from the President

By Susan Kegel

Bon printemps! SNSCA was very busy at the end of 2024 and in the first quarter of 2025. In December, we had a fundraising booth at the Holiday Market sponsored by the Alliance Française. Later in this newsletter, you can read about the first annual Sister City Soup Sampling in January, our La Chandeleur celebration in February, and FrenchFest in March.

Coming up on April 26 is our first Nantes Park clean-up of the season. Given the recent warm and wet weather, I think we can expect lots of weeds to pull!

Then on May 4 we have our first Sister City Short Film Festival. We are partnering with other Seattle sister city associations to show 11 shorts from 8 countries on 4 continents. See our website for tickets.

The big news, of course, is that we will be exchanging delegations to celebrate our 45th anniversary of twinning. These delegations, which we do every 5 years, are a very special way to form new friendships and strengthen existing ones with the people of our sister city. People-to-people diplomacy to promote global cooperation is what sister cities are all about.

The delegation from Seattle to Nantes is September 5-12, with an optional second week stay with your host family. We will be attending the inauguration of the Jardin de Seattle along with artist Barbara Earl Thomas, whose garden gate will welcome visitors. We are planning a special gastronomy collaboration between a Seattle chef and a Nantes chef, which will take over La Cantine du Voyage. Plus lots of sightseeing in beautiful Nantes. The deadline to register on our website is July 1.

The delegation from Nantes to Seattle will be during the last two weeks of October, exact dates to be determined. We will need host families for our guests, so please let us know if you can welcome a Nantais or Nantaise into your home for one or two weeks. Also, we are forming a committee to plan the week of events and would love to have members join. Please email us if you would like to help plan the delegation visit or if you have suggestions for events.

Finally, I'm excited to announce that David Asher is joining me as co-president of the association. His former duties as secretary will be assumed by Alaina McCallum.

Merci!

Connect with Us

seattle-nantes.org
seattlenantessca@gmail.com
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twitter.com/seattlenantes



European Holiday Market

By David Asher

The Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association was proud to once again partner with the Alliance française de Seattle to host a traditional European Holiday market this past December.

The market hosted a number of European communities across Seattle to share festive food, crafts, music, and stories. Among those at the market were individuals and organizations that SNSCA has worked with in the past including artist Lars Larrowby showcasing French prints and comics and SNSCA member Emma, representing her organization Crêpes & Travel. Other vendor/food options included French macarons, Czech pastries, and Romanian wines (all of which I thoroughly enjoyed visiting).

Entertainment was not just limited to a visit from Santa Claus. The headline event was a series of performances from different choirs at the French-American School of Puget Sound, starting with the 1st grade group and concluding with the 4th and 5th grade group.

SNSCA looks forward to its continued partnership with the Alliance française de Seattle for more events like these throughout Seattle. Stay tuned for information on future events!





Seattle Sister Cities Soup Sampling

By Alaina McCallum

On Saturday, January 18th, the Polish Home Association in the Capitol Hill neighborhood was packed with folks eager to taste soups from four different continents; there were 336 people who attended the first annual Seattle Sister Cities Soup Sampling.

SNSCA member Debra Borchert made 17 quarts of carrot and ginger soup, which is a recipe in her book *Soups of Château de Verzat: A Literary Cookbook & Culinary Tribute to the French Revolution*.

Marsella and Joe Logan were busy heating the soup in the kitchen not only for us but for other sister cities. In total, we served 140 people; about half of the people who came chose our soup.





Crêpes, Community, and Cheers: A Chandeleur Celebration in Woodinville

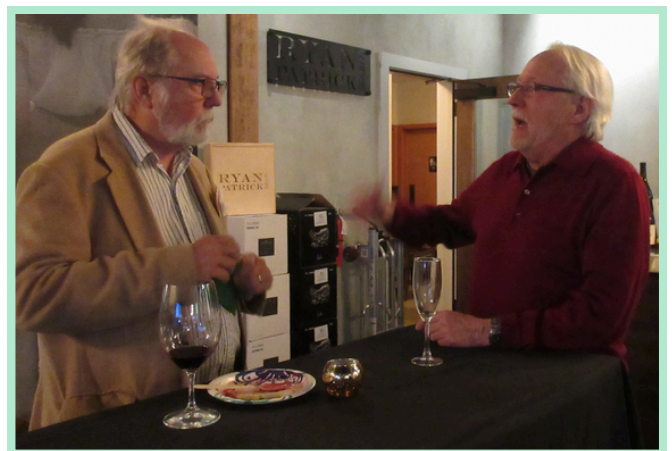
By Marsella Logan

On February 2nd, we gathered at Milbrandt Winery in Woodinville for a delightful afternoon celebrating la Chandeleur with delicious crêpes, great company, and fantastic wine. This was our first event on the Eastside in quite some time, and we couldn't have asked for a better turnout!

Guests enjoyed an open wine bar, non-alcoholic beverages, and of course, an abundance of crêpes. A special thank you to our amazing crêpe makers—Alaina, Patricia, Emma, and Julien—for keeping everyone well-fed with fresh, homemade crêpes. We had a special build-your-own crêpe bar featuring an assortment of sweet and savory toppings, alongside small savory bites for a variety of options.

President, Susan Kegel, shared exciting updates on upcoming events including our delegation visit to France this September. We look forward to continuing to bring the Seattle-Nantes community together for more gatherings in the future.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar and new faces come together. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and made the event so special!





2025 Scholarship Recipients

By Alaina McCallum

As of this year, SNSCA has awarded over 90 scholarships since the Goldmark Scholarship was established in 1986 in memory of founding member Annie Goldmark. We are very proud of our scholarship program, which has grown over the years in large part thanks to the late Tom Bennett.

In 2006, Tom Bennett established the Seattle-Nantes Dollars for Scholars Scholarship, which is part of a national matching grant. In 2015, SNSCA awarded the first Frances Bennett Scholarship, which was an endowment scholarship that Tom Bennett established in memory of his mother. Following Tom Bennett's passing, his daughters Karen Herr and Kristen Johanson established an endowment scholarship in his memory. Note, by the time we had established the three endowment scholarships, we no longer offered the general Seattle-Nantes Dollars for Scholars Scholarship, which between 2015 and 2019 was the Seattle-Nantes Scholars Scholarships, because we had broken away from the national matching grant.

This year's applications were due February 1st, and after the application review process and the interviews, the scholarship committee of Susan Hulbert, Marsella Logan, Bunny Schmidley, and myself, decided to award scholarships to six amazing scholars. This year at French Fest, we were given a slot on the main stage to award our scholarship recipients, and five of the six recipients were able to make it on short notice.

Kendall Odell from the University of Puget Sound is our Goldmark Scholarship recipient who has demonstrated strong leadership skills and shows interest in spreading the word about our scholarship program. She will be studying in Nantes next year.

Sophie Biernacki from the University of Washington was awarded the Frances Bennett Scholarship and has been very active with the l'Alliance française and will study in Paris this summer.

There are four recipients of the Dr. Thomas H. Bennett Scholarship, Natalie Anderson, Nia King, Lily Bauer, and Emma Myers. Natalie and Nia are students at West Seattle High School. Natalie demonstrated a passion and curiosity for French and other cultures and will be studying in Paris this summer. Nia has a lot of leadership experience and will be studying in Rennes this summer. Lily Bauer attends Central Washington University and has a clear passion for French; Lily will be studying in Orléans. Emma Myers attends Pacific Lutheran University and has demonstrated a lot of initiative and is excited to be learning French in Aix.

We look forward to keeping in contact with all of our scholarship recipients. To learn more about our scholarship program, visit seattle-nantes.com/scholarships.





Join Us Today!

Meet fellow Francophiles and experience authentic French art, culture, and language in a way no tourist can. Members help shape what events and activities we offer. Your dues support all our programs and scholarships. Your participation keeps the association strong and lively.

Please renew your membership every January by check or online!

Individual Annual Dues

Student: \$10
Senior Citizen: \$15
Individual: \$25
Family: \$35
Sponsor: \$50
Patron: \$100
Donor: \$250
Benefactor: \$500

Corporate Annual Dues

Patron: \$50
Donor: \$100
Benefactor: \$500

Pay by Mail

Print an application and mail it with your check to the order of SNCSA to:
Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association
c/o Marsella Logan
17332 56th Drive NE Unit A
Bothell, WA 98011

Pay Online

Choose your category from the dropdown menu below, then complete this [online form](#).

Yearly Membership Dues

Student \$10.00 USD

[Add to Cart](#)

If you are a new member or have changes in your address or email address, please also send an application form to the address above or email it to seattlenantesca@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION - New Member / Renewal

Personal Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment Information

Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Cardholder Address: _____

Cardholder City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cardholder Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership Information

Membership Type: ☐ Individual ☐ Family ☐ Corporate

Membership Category: ☐ Student ☐ Senior Citizen ☐ Individual ☐ Family ☐ Sponsor ☐ Patron ☐ Donor ☐ Benefactor

Membership Start Date: _____

Membership End Date: _____

Membership Fee: _____

Membership Status: ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Membership Update

By Marsella Logan

We are excited to welcome the following new members to Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association:

- **Jill Capozzoli**
- **Kaelig Deloumeau-Prigent**
- **Ion Gardescu**
- **Kathy Gorney**
- **Pamela Kliment**
- **Danielle Hayden**
- **Kari Johanson**
- **Taegen Smith**
- **Mia Herr**

If you know anyone who is also interested in joining, send them to seattle-nantes.org/membership.

Nantes Park Update

By Alaina McCallum

Spring has arrived, and it is time for another weeding party at Nantes Park!

Thank you to Margaret for coordinating with Seattle Parks and Recreation to organize the upcoming Nantes Park cleanup on Saturday, April 26th from 10am to 1pm. Join us for however long you can.

Please bring your own gloves, but all the other tools will be provided.



La Chorale's spring concert, Fête de la Musique, is on Saturday, May 3rd at Prospect Church (191 E. Prospect) in Seattle. There will be an eclectic mix of songs! You will be able to enjoy folk songs from the Channel Island, Québec, and Haiti (sung in Creole), as well as traditional and contemporary French songs, both secular and religious, for example Cantique de Jean Racine by Gabriel Fauré, a distinguished French 19th century composer and "Je Ne Regrette Rien" by Edith Piaf. The repertoire's diversity is matched by the diversity of La Chorale's singers.

Get your tickets today at click4tix.com/chorale. La Chorale's first concert Noël sans Frontières was sold-out.



French Fest 2025

By Alaina McCallum

Leading up to French Fest, board members gathered at Ellen Taft's to weed through the books so that our collection was more focused on contemporary fiction and children's books as those are what sells. Thanks, Ellen, for housing all of the books!

On the morning of French Fest, Judy Deignan and her friend Rick helped me load all of the boxes of books into our cars before driving to the Seattle Center for the event.

While at French Fest, we sold over 400 books and shared information with visitors to our booth about the upcoming delegation visit to Nantes, our scholarship program, and all the activities and collaborations we do throughout the year.

During French Fest, la Chorale Francophone performed, and there were two artist displays by people connected to SNSCA, longtime member Geraldine Le Calvez and Suze Woolf who is working on a collaboration with Nantais Eric Fonteneau.

Thank you to Margaret, Susan Kegel, Bunny, Judy, Tom and Patricia for helping at the booth and packing everything up at the end. We hope to see you next year at French Fest!





SNSCA Board Members

OFFICERS

Co-President: Susan Kegel

Co-President: David Asher

Treasurer: Susan Hulbert

Secretary: Alaina McCallum

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Deignan

Margaret Johnson

Larry Laffrey

Marsella Logan

Bunny Schmidley

Julien Thibault

Tom Waite

Monthly Board Meetings

The Board convenes on the first Wednesday of the month. We are meeting via video conferencing. If you are interested, contact us at seattlenantessca@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 26, 10:00am to 1:00pm

Nantes Park Cleanup

5062 SW Admiral Way

Sunday, May 4, 4:30-7:30pm

Seattle Sister Cities Short Film Festival

Polish Home Association, 1714 18th Avenue

Tickets are on sale and \$15

Sunday, July 13, 3:30-5:30pm

Bastille Day Picnic

Magnuson Park, Shelter 2, 7400 Sand Point Way NE

Membership Renewal

We appreciate everyone who has renewed their SNSCA membership. Your support is crucial for our programs and scholarships.

If you haven't yet renewed for 2025, please [pay online](#) or send your check made out to SNSCA to:

Marsella Logan

17332 90th Drive NE Unit A

Bothell, WA 98011

Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook!

